

Message Text

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ORIGIN HUD-02

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: TECH, UR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-U.S.S.R. HOUSING AGREEMENT: WORKING GROUP
10.02--A THIRD POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS
UNDER PROJECT 1.3

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2604; (B) STATE 42874; (C) MOSCOW 1587

1. HUD IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT MESSAGE FROM
TERENTIEV (REF A) THAT SOVIET SPECIALISTS ON PROJECT
1.3, WORKING GROUP 10.02, MAY NOT ARRIVE IN THE U.S. MARCH
6 AS SCHEDULED. PURPORTED REASON IS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS' NEW, OR NEWLY ENFORCED, REQUIREMENT THAT IT BE
PROVIDED WITH AN ITINERARY FOR SOVIET TEAMS 21 DAYS IN
ADVANCE OF DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW. HUD AGREES WITH SCIENCE
OFFICER THAT LACK OF 21-DAY LEAD TIME FOR THE ITINERARY IS
NOT SUFFICIENT REASON TO POSTPONE AGAIN THE SOVIET 1.3 VISIT
AND STRONGLY URGES THAT THE SOVIET TEAM ARRIVE IN NEW YORK
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CITY ON SCHEDULE MARCH 6. OTHERWISE THE VISIT WILL NOT TAKE
PLACE UNTIL THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1977, WITH AN EXCELLENT
CHANCE THAT THE U.S. SIDE WILL BE FORCED TO CANCEL ITS
COOPERATION ON PROJECT 1.3 ALTOGETHER. IN ANY CASE A GO OR
NO-GO SIGNAL MUST BE RECEIVED AT HUD BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS
TOMORROW (MARCH 2).

2. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT'S RECORD OF PROVIDING ITINERARIES IN ADVANCE IS UNIMPRESSIVE AT BEST. OFTEN U.S. TEAMS ARE HANDED THEIR ITINERARIES ONLY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW. AN IMMINENT EXAMPLE IS THE U.S. TEAM ON SUBPROJECT 1.1.1., WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE U.S.S.R. MARCH 10-19. THE TEAM HAS HAD TO APPLY FOR SOVIET VISAS WITHOUT LISTING CITIES TO BE VISITED BECAUSE NO ITINERARY HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM SOVIETS (REF B). VISA AUTHORIZATION MUST BE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON BY FRIDAY, MARCH 4 BECAUSE OF SOVIET HOLIDAY MARCH 6-8.

3. HUD HAD BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN OF SOVIET INSISTENCE THAT THEIR DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN WORKING GROUP 10.02 WAS STILL STRONG AND THAT PAST PROBLEMS WERE BEING RESOLVED (REF C). IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE PROBLEMS STILL PERSIST. ANY FURTHER AND UNREASONABLE POSTPONEMENTS MAY FORCE HUD TO REALIGN 10.02 IN THE HOUSING AGREEMENT. HUD WILL NOT CONTINUE TO SUFFER SOVIET INEFFICIENCIES AND INSENSITIVITIES WHICH RESULT IN SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT VIS-A-VIS OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IN VIEW OF SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT'S INABILITY TO ASSURE RESPONSIVE PERFORMANCE BY SOVIET CO-CHAIRMAN SOLODENNIKOV, HUD IS PLANNING TO COMPLAIN DIRECTLY TO GOSSTROY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOMIN BY MEANS OF A LETTER TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE EMBASSY. STEGALL HAS ASKED TO MEET WITH SOVIET SCIENCE COUNSELOR DOBROSELSKY ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 TO REGISTER HUD'S PARTICULAR EXASPERATION WITH SOVIET PERFORMANCES IN THIS WORKING GROUP.

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE045425
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
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